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EXAMINER	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/826,928	VASSILEV ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ROB WU	3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *17 August 2009*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-6,13-18,25-34 and 45-54* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-6,13-18,25-34 and 45-54* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *2/7/2005*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-6, 13-18, 25-34, 45-54 in the reply filed on August 17 2009 is acknowledged.

2. Claims 7-12, 19-24, 35-44, 55-64 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on August 17 2009.

3. Claims 65-94 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 1-6 and 25-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

A claimed process is eligible for patent protection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 if:

> "(1) it is tied to a particular machine or apparatus, or (2) it transforms a particular article into a different state or thing. See Benson, 409 U.S. at 70 ('Transformation and reduction of an article 'to a different state or thing' is the clue to the patentability of a process claim that does not include particular machines.'); Diehr, 450 U.S. at 192 (holding that use of mathematical formula in process 'transforming or reducing an article to a different state or thing' constitutes patent-eligible subject matter); see also Flook, 437 U.S. at 589 n.9 ('An argument can be made [that the Supreme] Court has only recognized a process as within the statutory definition when it either was tied to a particular apparatus or operated to change materials to a 'different state or thing' '); Cochrane v. Deener, 94 U.S. 780, 788 (1876) ('A process is...an act, or a series of acts, performed upon the subject-matter to be transformed and reduced to a different state or thing.').[7] A claimed process involving a fundamental principle that uses a particular machine or apparatus

> would not pre-empt uses of the principle that do not also use the specified machine or apparatus in the manner claimed. And a claimed process that transforms a particular article to a specified different state or thing by applying a fundamental principle would not pre-empt the use of the principle to transform any other article, to transform the same article but in a manner not covered by the claim, or to do anything other than transform the specified article." (*In re Bilski, 88 USPQ2d 1385, 1391 (Fed. Cir. 2008))*

Also noted in *Bilski* is the statement, "Process claim that recites fundamental principle, and that otherwise fails 'machine-or-transformation' test for whether such claim is drawn to patentable subject matter under 35 U.S.C. §101, is not rendered patent eligible by mere field-of-use limitations; another corollary to machine-or-transformation test is that recitation of specific machine or particular transformation of specific article does not transform unpatentable principle into patentable process if recited machine or transformation constitutes mere 'insignificant post-solution activity.'" (*In re Bilski, 88 USPQ2d 1385, 1385 (Fed. Cir. 2008))* Examples of insignificant post-solution activity include data gathering and outputting. Furthermore, the machine or transformation must impose meaningful limits on the scope of the method claims in order to pass the machine-or-transformation test. Please refer to the USPTO's "Guidance for Examining Process Claims in view of *In re Bilski*" memorandum dated January 7, 2009, http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/documents/bilski_guidance_memo.pdf .

It is also noted that the mere recitation of a machine in the preamble in a manner such that the machine fails to patentably limit the scope of the claim does not make the claim statutory under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as seen in the Board of Patent Appeals Informative Opinion *Ex parte Langemyr et al.* (Appeal 2008-1495), http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/bpai/its/fd081495.pdf .

Claims 1-6 and 25-34 are not tied to a particular machine or apparatus nor do they transform a particular article into a different state or thing, thereby failing the machine-or-transformation test; therefore, claims 1-6 and 25-34 are non-statutory under § 101.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-6, 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat No 6,275,808 to DeMarcken.

Referring to Claim 1:

A method of searching travel products and providing a plurality of alternative travel itineraries to the user comprising:

Querying the user for a first set of input data, the input data being at least one departure airport or geography range and at least one arrival geography range associated with the travel departure and arrival. (Fig 21; col 59: lines 50-56)

Searching the information storage and retrieval system for travel departure and arrival information corresponding to the first set of input data. (Fig 21; col 59: lines 57-59)

Displaying the information associated with the selected travel departure and arrival information, including a list of at least one departure airport selected or within the selected travel departure geography and a list of at least one arrival airport within the selected travel arrival geography; (Fig 21; col 59: lines 57-59)

Querying the user for exact departure and arrival dates and times, a range of acceptable departure and arrival dates and times or a range of an acceptable length of stay; (Fig 21)

Querying a travel database comprising travel data including separately maintained travel schedule data items, fare data items, and fare limitation information for matching itineraries with all possible departure and arrival airport, date, time, length of stay, and number of connections; (col 59: lines 66-67; col 60: lines 31-67)

Displaying the information associated with the travel departure and arrival. (Fig 22-25)

Referring to Claim 2:

The method of claim 1, further comprising querying the user for a second set of input data, the second set of input data including selecting at least one acceptable departure airport and at least one acceptable arrival airport associated with the travel departure and arrival. (col 59: lines 53-61; Fig 21, field 364 shows the available airports for the Turkey region, and field 361 shows an acceptable airport being ESB)

Referring to Claim 3:

The method of claim 1, further comprising querying the user for an acceptable maximum number of connections. (Fig 22, Nonestop, Direct)

Referring to Claim 4:

The method of claim 1, further comprising querying the user for an acceptable means of sorting and displaying the results of the travel database query. (col 60: lines 34-51)

Referring to Claim 5:

The method of claim 1, further comprising accessing a remotely accessible source for making travel destination reservations. (Fig 1; col 3: lines 34-45; lines 61-66)

Referring to Claim 6:

The method of claim 1, further comprising making a reservation at a selected travel destination using the remotely accessed source for making travel destination reservations. (col 3: lines 34-45; lines 61-66)

Referring to Claim 13:

A system of searching travel products and providing a plurality of alternative travel itineraries to the user comprising:

Querying means for querying the user for input data, the input data being at least one departure airport or geography range and at least one arrival geography range associated with the travel departure and arrival; (Fig 21; col 59: lines 50-56)

Searching means for searching the information storage and retrieval system for travel departure and arrival information corresponding to the first set of input data; (Fig 21; col 59: lines 57-59)

Displaying means for displaying the information associated with the selected travel departure and arrival information, including a list of at least one departure airport

selected or within the selected travel departure geography and a list of at least one arrival airport within the selected travel arrival geography; (Fig 21; col 59: lines 57-59)

Querying means for querying the user for exact departure and arrival dates and times, a range of acceptable departure and arrival dates and times or a range of an acceptable length of stay; (Fig 21)

Querying means for querying a travel database comprising travel data including separately maintained travel schedule data items, fare data items, and fare limitation information for matching itineraries with all possible departure and arrival airport, date, time, length or stay, and number of connections combinations; (col 59: lines 66-67; col 60: lines 31-67)

Displaying means for displaying the information associated with the travel departure and arrival. (Fig 22-25)

Referring to Claim 14:

The system of claim 13, further comprising querying means for querying the user for a second set of input data, the second set of input data including selecting at least one acceptable departure airport and at least one acceptable arrival airport associated with the travel departure and arrival. (col 59: lines 53-61; Fig 21, field 364 shows the available airports for the Turkey region, and field 361 shows an acceptable airport being ESB)

Referring to Claim 15:

The system of claim 13, further comprising querying means for querying the user for an acceptable maximum number of connections. (Fig 22, Nonestop, Direct)

Referring to Claim 16:

The system of claim 13 further comprising querying means for querying the user for an acceptable means of sorting and displaying the results of the travel database query. (col 60: lines 34-51)

Referring to Claim 17:

The system of claim 13, further comprising accessing means for accessing a remotely accessible source for making travel destination reservations. (Fig 1; col 3: lines 34-35; lines 61-66)

Referring to Claim 18:

The system of claim 13, further comprising reservation means for making a reservation at a selected travel destination using the remotely accessed source for making travel destination reservations. (col 3: lines 34-35; lines 61-66)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 25 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeMarcken in view of U.S. Pub No 2007/0208625 to Walker et al.

Referring to Claim 25:

A method of searching travel products and providing a plurality of alternative travel itineraries to the user comprising:

DeMarcken discloses

Querying the user for a first set of input data, the input data being at least one departure airport or geography range and at least one arrival geography range associated with the travel departure and arrival; (Fig 21; col 59: lines 50-56)

Searching the information storage and retrieval system for travel departure and arrival information corresponding to the first set of input data; (Fig 21; col 59: lines 57-59)

Displaying the information associated with the selected travel departure and arrival information, including a list of at least one departure airport selected or within the selected travel departure geography and a list of at least one arrival airport within the selected travel arrival geography; (Fig 21; col 59: lines 57-59)

DeMarcken disclose querying the user for acceptable departure and arrival dates and times (Fig 21). DeMarcken does not expressly disclose querying the user for a range of acceptable departure and arrival dates and times and a range of an acceptable length of stay;

Walker et al disclose descriptions can be received from a customer for a desired air travel itinerary, and the description may include one or more condition values corresponding to the conditions Departure City, Departure Date, Departure Time, Arrival Ciy, Arrival Date, Arrival Time, Airline, Class, or the like, And the conditions values can be specified in terms of a range. [0174]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for DeMarcken to combine accepting range values for travel request as disclosed by Walker et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination the querying and searching elements disclosed by DeMarcken and the travel range values element disclosed by Walker et al merely would have performed the same function as it did separately. Therefore, one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

DeMarcken disclose querying a travel database comprising travel data including separately maintained travel schedule data items, fare data items, and fare limitation information for matching itineraries with all possible departure and arrival airport, date, time, length of stay, and number of connections combinations; (col 59: lines 66-67; col 60: lines 31-67) and

Displaying the information associated with the travel departure and arrival. (Fig 22-25)

Referring to Claim 45:

A system of searching travel products and providing a plurality of alternative travel itineraries to the user comprising:

DeMarcken discloses

Querying means for querying the user for a first set of input data, the input data being at least one departure airport or geography range and at least one arrival

geography range associated with the travel departure and arrival; (Fig 21; col 59: lines 50-56)

Searching means for searching the information storage and retrieval system for travel departure and arrival information corresponding to the first set of input data; (Fig 21; col 59: lines 57-59)

Displaying means for displaying the information associated with the selected travel departure and arrival information, including a list of at least one departure airport selected or within the selected travel departure geography and a list of at least one arrival airport within the selected travel arrival geography; (Fig 21; col 59: lines 57-59)

DeMarcken disclose querying the user for acceptable departure and arrival dates and times (Fig 21). DeMarcken does not expressly disclose querying the user for a range of acceptable departure and arrival dates and times and a range of an acceptable length of stay;

Walker et al disclose descriptions can be received from a customer for a desired air travel itinerary, and the description may include one or more condition values corresponding to the conditions Departure City, Departure Date, Departure Time, Arrival Ciy, Arrival Date, Arrival Time, Airline, Class, or the like, And the conditions values can be specified in terms of a range. [0174]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for DeMarcken to combine accepting range values for travel request as disclosed by Walker et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination the querying and searching

elements disclosed by DeMarcken and the travel range values element disclosed by Walker et al merely would have performed the same function as it did separately. Therefore, one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

DeMarcken disclose querying means for querying a travel database comprising travel data including separately maintained travel schedule data items, fare data items, and fare limitation information for matching itineraries with all possible departure and arrival airport, date, time, length of stay, and number of connections combinations; (col 59: lines 66-67; col 60: lines 31-67) and

Displaying means for displaying the information associated with the travel departure and arrival. (Fig 22-25)

10. Claims 26-34, 46-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeMarcken in view of Walker et al in further view of U.S. Pat No 7,346,526 to Daughtrey et al.

Referring to Claim 26:

DeMarcken and Walker et al do not expressly disclose wherein a set of feasible combinations of departure dates and times and arrival dates and times is generated.

Daughtrey et al disclose a flexible travel query system using a range of departure, arrival dates and times wherein a set of feasible combinations of departure dates and times and arrival dates and times is generated. (col 5: lines 19-32; col 6: lines 16-30, Fig 4)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for DeMarcken and Walker et al to include the travel combination generation as disclosed by Daughtrey et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination the travel query and generation of feasible combination of travel dates merely would have performed the same function as it did separately. Therefore, one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to Claim 27:

DeMarcken and Walker et al do not expressly disclose wherein a length of stay is calculated for each feasible combination.

Daughtrey et al disclose a flexible travel query system using a range of departure, arrival dates and times wherein a combination of travel arrangement is made according to user enter specification such as date and length of stay. (col 5: lines 19-32; col 6: lines 16-30, Fig 2 and 4)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for DeMarcken and Walker et al to include the travel combination generation as disclosed by Daughtrey et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination the travel query and generation of feasible combination of travel dates merely would have performed the same function as it did separately. Therefore, one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to Claims 28 and 29:

DeMarcken discloses eliminating pricing solutions when it does not correspond to user entered criteria. (col 60: lines 41-43)

DeMarcken does not expressly disclose eliminating feasible combinations where a length of stay is greater or less than the maximum and minimum acceptable length of stay designated by the user.

However, the difference between user entered criteria disclosed by DeMarcken and length of stay that is greater or less than the maximum and minimum acceptable length of stay are only found in the non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The receiving and eliminating steps would be performed the same regardless of the descriptive material since none of the steps explicitly interact therewith. Limitations that are not functionally interrelated with the useful acts, structure, or properties of the claimed invention carry little or no patentable weight. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Ngai*, 70 USPQ2d 1862 (CAFC 2004); *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Therefore, it would also have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to eliminate travel solutions when it does not match a user entered length of stay because such data does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.

Referring to Claim 30:

DeMarcken discloses the method of claim 25, further comprising querying the user for a second set of input data, the second set of input data including selecting at least one acceptable departure airport and at least one acceptable arrival airport associated with the travel departure and arrival. (col 59: lines 53-61; Fig 21, field 364 shows the available airports for the Turkey region, and field 361 shows an acceptable airport being ESB)

Referring to Claim 31:

DeMarcken discloses the method of claim 25, further comprising querying the user for an acceptable maximum number of connections. (Fig 22, Nonestop, Direct)

Referring to Claim 32:

DeMarcken discloses the method of claim 25, further comprising querying the user for an acceptable means for sorting and displaying the results of the travel database query. (col 60: lines 34-51)

Referring to Claim 33:

DeMarcken discloses the method of claim 25, further comprising accessing a remotely accessible source for making travel destination reservations. (Fig 1; col 3: lines 34-45; col 61-66)

Referring to Claim 34:

DeMarcken discloses the method of claim 25, further comprising making a reservation at a selected travel destination using the remotely accessed source for making travel destination reservations. (col 3: lines 34-45; col 61-66)

Referring to Claim 46:

DeMarcken and Walker et al do not expressly disclose wherein a set of feasible combinations of departure dates and times and arrival dates and times is generated.

Daughtrey et al disclose a flexible travel query system using a range of departure, arrival dates and times wherein a set of feasible combinations of departure dates and times and arrival dates and times is generated. (col 5: lines 19-32; col 6: lines 16-30, Fig 4)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for DeMarcken and Walker et al to include the travel combination generation as disclosed by Daughtrey et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination the travel query and generation of feasible combination of travel dates merely would have performed the same function as it did separately. Therefore, one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to Claim 47:

DeMarcken and Walker et al do not expressly disclose wherein a length of stay is calculated for each feasible combination.

Daughtrey et al disclose a flexible travel query system using a range of departure, arrival dates and times wherein a combination of travel arrangement is made according to user enter specification such as date and length of stay. (col 5: lines 19-32; col 6: lines 16-30, Fig 2 and 4)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for DeMarcken and Walker et al to include the travel

combination generation as disclosed by Daughtrey et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination the travel query and generation of feasible combination of travel dates merely would have performed the same function as it did separately. Therefore, one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to Claims 48 and 49:

DeMarcken discloses eliminating pricing solutions when it does not correspond to user entered criteria. (col 60: lines 41-43)

DeMarcken does not expressly disclose eliminating feasible combinations where a length of stay is greater or less than the maximum and minimum acceptable length of stay designated by the user.

However, the difference between user entered criteria disclosed by DeMarcken and length of stay that is greater or less than the maximum and minimum acceptable length of stay are only found in the non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The receiving and eliminating steps would be performed the same regardless of the descriptive material since none of the steps explicitly interact therewith. Limitations that are not functionally interrelated with the useful acts, structure, or properties of the claimed invention carry little or no patentable weight. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Ngai*, 70 USPQ2d 1862 (CAFC 2004); *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Therefore, it would also have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to eliminate travel solutions when it does not match a user entered length of stay because such data does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.

Referring to Claim 50:

DeMarcken discloses the system of claim 45, further comprising querying means for querying the user for a second set of input data, the second set of input data including selecting at least one acceptable departure airport and at least one acceptable arrival airport associated with the travel departure and arrival. (col 59: lines 53-61; Fig 21, field 364 shows the available airports for the Turkey region, and field 361 shows an acceptable airport being ESB)

Referring to Claim 51:

DeMarcken discloses the system of claim 45, further comprising querying means for querying the user for an acceptable maximum number of connections. (Fig 22, Nonestop, Direct)

Referring to Claim 52:

DeMarcken discloses the system of claim 45, further comprising querying means for querying the user for an acceptable means for sorting and displaying the results of the travel database query. (col 60: lines 34-51)

Referring to Claim 53:

DeMarcken discloses the system of claim 45, further comprising accessing a remotely accessible source for making travel destination reservations. (Fig 1; col 3: lines 34-45; col 61-66)

Referring to Claim 54:

DeMarcken discloses the system of claim 45, further comprising making a reservation at a selected travel destination using the remotely accessed source for making travel destination reservations. (col 3: lines 34-45; col 61-66)

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pub No 2008/0126143 to Altman et a,l directed to searching for travel products.

U.S. Pub No 2003/0040946 to Sprenger et al, directed to searching for travel products with length of stay.

U.S. Pub No 2001/0034625 to Kwoh, directed to searching for travel products with flexible search criteria.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROB WU whose telephone number is (571)272-3136. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571)272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Rob Wu/
Examiner, Art Unit 3628